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CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLE 9 OF THE CONVENTION

Fourth periodic reports of States parties due in 1989

Addendum

CHINA */

[30 March 1990]

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*/ For the previous reports submitted by the Government of the People's Republic of China and the summary records of the meetings of the Committee at which the reports were considered, see:

Initial report - CERD/C/101/Add.2 and Add.3 (CERD/C/SR.639-SR.640)
Second periodic report - CERD/C/126/Add.1 (CERD/C/SR.767-SR.769)
Third periodic report - CERD/C/153/Add.2 (Pending consideration)

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PART I. GENERAL

1. The People's Republic of China signed the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in 1982. Further to the provisions of article 9 of the Convention, China submitted its first, second and third periodic reports in February 1983, June 1985 and December 1987 respectively. It is now submitting its fourth periodic report.

2. This report describes the measures taken by China in 1988 and 1989 i.e. following the previous third periodic report to implement articles 2 to 7 of the Convention.

PART II. INFORMATION IN RELATION TO ARTICLES 2 TO 7

Article 2

3. China has always subscribed to the principle of equality among all nationalities and ethnic groups. It has always opposed racial discrimination, always opposed the oppression of one race by another. It fosters mutual assistance and prosperity as between nationalities and peoples. In this respect, China in 1988 and 1989 adopted a series of legislative and administrative measures which, taken together, have created a significant impact.

4. On 13 April 1988, the first session of the seventh National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China noted in its Report on the Work of the Government: "It is in the common interest of all nationalities of China to maintain harmony among themselves, and thereby enhance the unity of the mother country. Local governments at all levels must take care to protect the equal rights of minority peoples and to ensure self-government by the national autonomous areas. The schools must emphasize the harmony among peoples so as to develop a new kind of relationship between ethnic groups based on socialist equality, solidarity and mutual assistance."

5. The second session of the seventh National People's Congress adopted its Report on the Work of the Government on 4 April 1989, and the Report emphasized that "during the period of economic adjustment as well as in the entire process of modernization, we must devote our efforts to building up and developing social relations between nationalities based on equality, solidarity and mutual assistance. This is in the most basic interest of all, one without which it would be impossible either to modernize our country or to bring about the common prosperity of our people".

6. The General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, Jiang Zeming, in his address on 29 September 1989, at the rally to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic, had this to say: "We must firmly and persistently carry out our programme to ensure the equality, unity and common prosperity of the various nationalities. We must fully trust our national cadres and rely on the support of the national masses. At the same time, we must resolutely struggle against any conspiracy which attempts to split up our country. We must strengthen the legal system in the national autonomous areas. We must make special efforts to train the administrative and professional personnel of minority peoples. We must safeguard all the rights of national autonomous areas to govern themselves. We must take the

necessary measures to continue to help the minority areas to develop their economy, education, culture and other enterprises. We must in the long run try to eliminate any differences in standards that remain as a result of historical circumstances."

7. The principal legal instruments regulating ethnic relations in China are the Self-Government Laws of Nationality Regions of the People's Republic of China. National autonomous areas and provinces with large minority populations comply with the provisions of these laws. In addition, each minority area, according to its own conditions and characteristics, also formulates its own self-government regulations as well as concrete measures for their implementation. This is the way minority peoples exercise their equal and self-government rights.

8. Since these Self-Government Laws of Nationality Regions were enacted in 1984, 61 autonomous areas in China have formulated their own self-government regulations. All the regulations specify that the struggle against racial discrimination and oppression and the development of socialist ethnic relations on the basis of equality and solidarity are an autonomous administration's basic tasks and a citizen's basic duties. Thus, article 9 of the Self-Government Regulations of the Yushu Tibetan Autonomous District of the Qinghai Province stipulates that "the role of the self-government administration of this autonomous district is to protect and develop socialist ethnic relations based on equality, solidarity and mutual assistance. It is forbidden to oppress any national minority, forbidden to sabotage ethnic cohesion and to instigate national separatism".

9. Provinces with mixed and dispersed minority populations have also formulated relevant regulations. Thus, the Working Regulations of Dispersed Nationalities of Hunan Province stipulate that "the administrative work for dispersed minorities must fulfil the principle of ethnic equality, unity and common prosperity. It must take into account the characteristics of a minority people. It must try to safeguard the legitimate rights of a minority citizen and to encourage the development of the economy and culture of its people".

10. Some local governments have also formulated unique provisions to protect the equality of minority languages, freedom of religious beliefs and respect for local customs. Thus the people's government of the Hui Autonomous Region in Ningxia Province has published a set of regulations ensuring respect for the dietary habits, festivals, funerals, special utensils and living quarters of the Hui minority people.

11. Owing to historical and environmental conditions, the minority areas of China are relatively more backward. For this reason, the central and the local governments have for many years made the development of minority areas - in terms of their economy, education, science, culture and health care - an important part of their routine administrative work.

12. In September 1989, the Government held a national conference in Beijing on welfare aid in the minority areas. Having studied various measures to meet the basic needs of minority populations, the conference proposed that the Government should, as part of its economic assistance package, grant tax relief to the poverty areas and set up a "basic needs fund" for the minority poor.

13. Between 1984 and 1987, the national Government released from this reserve food, cotton and fabric worth 2.7 billion yuan Rmb to improve the living conditions of the people in the minority poverty areas. In April 1989, the State Council sponsored a conference on the subject of using manufactured products in payment for work. It was decided that, from 1989 to 1991, the national Government should continue to provide 600 million yuan of manufactured goods to pay for work and help the minority poverty areas build railways and bridges and carry out fresh-water projects for the population and for animals.

14. In January 1989, the Commission on Nationality Affairs and the Ministry of Geology and Mines issued a Joint Notice setting out guidelines on assisting minority areas to develop and exploit their geological resources. The Joint Notice establishes that reliable geological information, mineral resource data and technical papers and reports should regularly be provided for the territorial development of minority areas, to assess medium-scale and small-scale mines in the poorer counties of minority areas which are cost-efficient and suitable for local exploitation, to prospect for underground water in minority areas that suffer from serious drought, to survey the steppes and high plateaux of Inner Mongolia, Ningxia and Xinjian in order to rationalize the exploitation and use of water, and to improve the quality of alkaline soil.

15. The National Commission of the Natural Science Foundation decided to set up as of 1989 a regional science foundation to support scientific research in remote minority areas. In 1989, the foundation provided funding to researchers in colleges and institutes in seven provinces and autonomous regions - Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, Qinghai, Xinjiang, Tibet, Guangxi and Hainan.

16. Even under the general retrenchement policy of 1989, infrastructural investment in Tibet was significantly increased. It is estimated that State investment in Tibet in that year increased by 57.5 per cent over the previous year. Thus, nationally and locally, total infrastructure investment in Tibet in 1989 amounted to some 450 million yuan.

17. It is estimated that from the peaceful liberation of Tibet in the early 1950s until 1988, State support and aid to Tibet for its economic development and improvement of living standards, including subsidies and various kinds of targeted funds, altogether amounted to 15.97 billion yuan.

18. The State has also funded the development of basic education in minority areas. Since 1983, every year it has put up 100,000 yuan as a special effort to provide universal elementary education. Fifty-four per cent of this funding goes to the five autonomous areas - Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, Tibet and Guangxi - as well as the three provinces with the highest concentration of minority population - Yunnan, Guizhou and Qinghai.

19. The State also places great emphasis on health care in minority areas. In recent years, China's Ministry of Health has sponsored a series of special conferences on the prevention of epidemics and tuberculosis as well as on mother and child care in minority areas. It has adopted and implemented effective measures specifically designed for these areas for the prevention and treatment of diseases.

20. In terms of the economy, culture and health care, the results in minority areas have not been insignificant. In 1988, the total industrial and agricultural products of all the nationality autonomous regions, after adjusting for geographical changes, increased by 19.5 times over the initial value of 3,660 million yuan in 1949. In 1988, minority students enrolled in higher educational institutes accounted for 6.1 per cent of the total, whereas in 1950 it was merely 0.93 per cent. The total number of minority students is 97.6 times that of 1950. In 1988, there were a total of 338,892 hospital beds in all the autonomous areas, an increase of 102-fold over the total of 3,310 hospital beds in 1949.

Article 3

21. There is no apartheid in China. All members of every ethnic group enjoy the same legal and equal political rights, economic rights and the rights to develop their own ethnic culture and education. Internationally, the Government of China has always been firmly opposed to any kind of policy of racial apartheid. China has neither diplomatic relations nor any other political, economic or cultural contact with the racist régime in South Africa.

22. In celebrating United Nations Namibia Day on 25 August 1987, the Premier of China sent a message to the Chairman of the United Nations Council for Namibia, Peter Zuze, expressing China's support for the Council and reaffirming that, as in the past, the Government and the people of China will stand with the rest of the world in supporting the just struggle of the people of Namibia for national independence.

23. On 8 February 1988, China's permanent representative to the United Nations Office at Geneva, Qian Jiadong, in his statement at the forty-fourth session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, strongly condemned the South African régime for continuing its occupation of Namibia and for perpetrating political destabilization, economic sabotage and armed incursion against the front-line States in southern Africa. He hoped that the Governments and economic interest groups concerned would pay due regard to the general situation and promptly cease their co-operation with the South African régime.

24. On 24 February 1988, the spokesman for China's Foreign Ministry pointed out in a press conference that, recently, the South African authorities, totally disregarding criteria governing international relations, had committed massive numbers of troops to an invasion of southern Angola, seriously compromising Angola's sovereignty and security. China's Government and people strongly condemned this outrageous act. They demanded that the authorities of South Africa immediately halt such invasion and implement United Nations Security Council resolution 602 by withdrawing all South African troops from Angola.

25. On 25 February 1988, the spokesman for China's Foreign Ministry made another statement, pointing out that the South African Government had issued new emergency rules on 24 February, forbidding 17 anti-apartheid mass organizations in South Africa and the Congress of South African Unions to pursue any political activity. This was further repression of the people of South Africa by the Government. China's Government and people condemned this as an outrage and once again expressed their firm support for the people of South Africa in their just struggle for racial equality and against apartheid.

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26. On the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Racial Prejudice, on 21 March 1988, China's acting Premier Li Peng addressed a message to Mr. Garba of the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid in which he once again strongly condemned the apartheid system in South Africa. Li Peng pointed out that rooting out this evil system is an urgent task not only for the South African people but also for the whole world.

27. The Foreign Ministry spokesman issued another press release on 30 March 1988, in which he noted that the armed forces of South Africa on 28 March, flagrantly raided the suburb of Botswana's capital, Gabarone, revealing once again South Africa's persistent policy of destabilization against its neighbours. The Chinese Government expressed its moral outrage at this action.

28. On 24 May 1988, China's Premier Li Peng warmly congratulated the opening of the twenty-fourth session of the Organization of African Unity Conference of Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa by sending a message which underlined China's interest in the emerging situation in southern Africa. China regards South Africa's policy of apartheid, its attempt to obstruct the independence of Namibia and its flagrant violation of the sovereignty of its neighbours as the main sources of the continued tension and turmoil in that region. China cannot condone such obstinacy and perversity. It therefore strongly supports the just struggle of the peoples of South Africa, Namibia and southern Africa. It also supports the front-line States in their search for peace and stability consistent with their own conditions.

29. On 25 June 1988, the spokesman for China's Foreign Ministry sternly condemned South Africa's incursion against Botswana territory and sovereignty, causing bloodshed and tension in the region.

30. On 14 July, the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry made a statement on the seventieth birthday of Nelson Mandela, in which he demanded the release of Mandela and other anti-apartheid prisoners. The following day, a birthday celebration was held in Beijing for Mandela. The Afro-Asian Centre and the Afro-Asian Research Institute of the Social Science Academy jointly held a seminar on the thoughts and practice of Nelson Mandela. The participants of the seminar paid tribute to Mandela's courage and his contribution to the cause of freedom in Africa.

31. On 9 August 1988, the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry commented on the agreement concluded between Angola, Cuba and South Africa, under which a cease-fire would take effect among the parties and South African troops would be withdrawn from Angola. China welcomed this progress in negotiating a political settlement of the situation in Angola and Namibia.

32. On 25 August 1988, the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry urged the prompt and unconditional release of Nelson Mandela, expressing once again the conviction that his timely release would move the situation in South Africa towards a just solution.

33. On United Nations Namibia Day on 26 August 1988, Premier Li Peng sent a message to the Chairman of the United Nations Council for Namibia, Peter Zuze, reaffirming China's support for Namibia's independence movement.

34. During the forty-third session of the General Assembly, China voted to declare the 1990s the decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and voted in favour, inter alia, of the resolutions on the following subjects: the independence of Namibia, comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the racist régime in South Africa and concerted international action for the elimination of apartheid.

35. During the debate on anti-racism and anti-colonialism at the eightieth congress of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in September 1988, China's representative strongly condemned the racist régime in South Africa, while voicing support for the open challenge to it represented by the people of Namibia and the black leader, Nelson Mandela.

36. On 24 December 1988, the Foreign Ministry spokesman welcomed the signing of the Brazzaville Agreement between Angola, Cuba and South Africa on the settlement of the Angolan and Namibian questions.

37. At the forty-fifth session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the deputy head of the Chinese delegation, Chen Shiqiu, urged South Africa to yield to the tide of history by eradicating apartheid and racism and ceasing its oppression of the black majority. He also called for the co-ordination of the international community in ensuring more effective sanctions against South Africa to force it to change its policy.

38. On 21 March 1989, Premier Li Peng addressed a message to Mr. Garba, Chairman of the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid, expressing China's appreciation of the support given by the Special Committee to the people of South Africa. Premier Li noted that, as a result of the protracted struggle of the South African people and the joint effort of the international community, the United Nations Security Council resolution 435 was finally about to be implemented on 1 April 1989, moving the situation in South Africa in a positive direction. Nevertheless, China's position remains unchanged: against apartheid and racism in South Africa and for the just struggle of its people for racial equality and fundamental human rights.

39. On 24 July 1989, Premier Li Peng sent a congratulatory message to the 25th Conference of OAS Heads of State and Government, again affirming that China continues to back the African States' claim for independence and legitimate rights in their fight against apartheid.

40. On Namibia Day, on 25 August 1989, Premier Li Peng addressed a cable to Chairman Peter Zuze of the United Nations Council for Namibia, in which he urged the international community to make sure that South Africa keeps to its promise to let Namibia achieve independence through elections under United Nations supervision. Once again he affirmed China's support for the people of Namibia.

41. On 15 September 1989, the Foreign Ministry spokesman condemned the assassination of SWAPO's Mr. Lubovsky as a terrorist act.

42. On 16 October 1989, the same spokesman, answering reporters on the release of Mr. Sisulu and seven other South African black leaders, once again urged South Africa to give in to the demand of history and begin negotiation with black representatives on the abolishment of apartheid.

43. On 12 December 1989, the General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, Jiang Zeming, while receiving visitors from Zaire, acknowledged that, while it continues to support the anti-apartheid course of the South African people, China rejoiced at the progress made in the effort to find a political solution for the situation in South Africa.

44. At the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly in November 1989, China's delegate, Ambassador Yu Mengjia, called upon the international community to increase its pressure of sanctions on South Africa and not to relent until the apartheid system is abolished.

45. On 16 November 1989, General Secretary Jiang Zeming and President of the Republic Yang Shangkun jointly addressed a telegram to the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO), President Nujoma, congratulating him on the majority won by SWAPO in Namibia's constitutional parliament.

46. On 12 December 1989, at the United Nations General Assembly Special Conference on Apartheid and Its Detrimental Effect in southern Africa, China's permanent delegate to the United Nations, Li Luye, strongly urged South Africa to see the writing on the wall and adopt a more liberal policy by renouncing its racist laws under apartheid. He also called upon the South African authorities to recognize the national liberation movements - the African National Congress of South Africa and the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania - and engage in a serious democratic dialogue with them.

47. At a press conference at the International Conference Centre in Harare on 4 August 1989, China's Foreign Minister, Qian Qishen, made a four-point statement on China's basic position on the situation in southern Africa and its possible settlement. In the words of that statement, China greatly appreciates the effort of the southern African people to achieve a political settlement of the problems of the region. As always, China strongly supports the policy and strategy adopted by them consistent with their actual conditions. For southern Africa to achieve peace, stability, development and prosperity, it is absolutely crucial that the deepest root cause for regional unrest - apartheid in South Africa - be eradicated. China will respect whatever choice is made by the people of Namibia as long as the election is just and fair. China will discuss establishing diplomatic relations with the elected Government of Namibia on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence. China hopes that the international community will take practical and effective measures to improve the external environment which is impeding the development of Africa and to help southern Africa in its period of economic construction. China will also, to the extent of its capacity, continue to provide assistance to the countries of southern Africa.

Article 4

48. The Constitution of the People's Republic of China clearly states: "All nationalities are equal. Discrimination against and oppression of any nationality are prohibited." All nationalities in China relate to each other on the basis of equality, unity and mutual assistance. There is no organization in China which propagates racial prejudice. Of course, erroneous ideas still persist in dealing with relations and problems between nationalities. In daily situations, some people, under the influence of such ideas, have committed acts that offend the sensibility of minorities and

undermine ethnic harmony. Whenever such acts are discovered, they are dealt with promptly and firmly by the Government and the various ministries concerned.

49. One example of such ethnically offensive acts was the publication of a book titled Sexual Customs in Shanghai in May 1989. The book contained descriptions which insulted the Islamic faith. The book was immediately banned by the National Press Publication Bureau and copies were confiscated and destroyed. The Shanghai Cultural Publication House was ordered to close and reorganize itself. Other agencies connected with the publication of the book were also given penalties.

50. In 1987, the Government issued a notice against publishing reports and writings which might vilify a minority people. In 1989, the Commission on Nationality Affairs and the Ministry of Broadcasting, Cinema and Television jointly held a symposium in Kunming on the treatment of ethnic subjects in the media. The symposium explored ways to enrich such themes in cinema and television while avoiding stereotypes, caricatures and exotic images.

Article 5

51. China has adopted and put into practice a number of new measures - legislative, judicial and administrative - to protect minority rights.

52. The second session of the Seventh National People's Congress adopted a new Law on Administrative Proceedings. Article 8 of this Law stipulates that:

> "Any citizen of any nationality has the right to use his or her own language and writing in administrative proceedings.
>
> "In minorities areas or areas of multi-nationalities, a people's court shall use the common local language and writing in its proceedings and proclamations.
>
> "A people's court shall provide translators for participants in proceedings who do not understand the common local language or writing."

53. Article 49 of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Industrial Enterprises under the Ownership of the Whole People adopted on 13 April 1988 stipulates that:

> "Employees have the right to participate in the democratic management of an enterprise; the right to make suggestions on the production and the running of that enterprise; the right legally to enjoy work protection, work insurance, free time and vacation; the right to report on the actual conditions of that enterprise to a State agency and to make criticism and bring charges against the management of that enterprise."

54. Article 51 of the Law on Industrial Enterprises stipulates that:

> "The basic form of democratic management in an enterprise is the assembly of the representatives of employees, by which mechanism employees exercise their right of democratic management."

55. The State Council published the Regulations on the Registration of Social Groups in October 1989, which made specific provisions for the democratic right of citizens to form associations and for the protection of the legitimate rights of such social groups.

56. The State Council also published the Regulations on the Occupational Protection of Women Employees in July 1989, a set of protective measures against particular difficulties encountered by women employees at work. Enacted in addition to and as an improvement of the 1953 Regulations on Labour Insurance of the People's Republic of China, these new regulations are specifically directed at the working conditions and insurance needs of women employees.

57. The State Council further published Regulations on the Organization of People's Commissions of Conciliation on 17 June 1989, article 3 of which stipulates that:

> "A people's commission of conciliation in a multi-nationality area shall have members who represent minority groups."

58. For the protection of the physical and mental health of children, article 27 of the Working Regulations of Kindergartens stipulates that:

> "Generally kindergartens shall use the national language - Mandarin. However, kindergartens that enrol minority children may use the local minority language."

59. To improve the cultural quality of citizens, the State Council promulgated Regulations on Literacy in February 1988. Regulation 2 stipulates that:

> "All illiterates and semi-illiterates between the ages of 15 and 40, except those who are incapacitated, shall have the right and obligation to undertake literacy training, regardless of sex, ethnic nationality or race. Illiterates and semi-illiterates over the age of 40 are nevertheless encouraged to enrol in literacy classes."

60. The State Council promulgated the Provisional Regulations on Higher Self-Education and Examinations in March 1988. Regulation 3 stipulates that:

> "All citizens of the People's Republic of China, regardless of sex, age, ethnic nationality, race and educational level, are hereby encouraged to participate in higher self-education examinations."

61. The National Bureau of Tourism in December 1987 published the Provisional Regulations on Tourist Guides, Regulation 2 of which stipulates that:

> "In response to requests from tourists, tourist guides shall use foreign languages, Mandarin Chinese, Chinese dialects or minority languages as required in conducting tours."

Article 6

62. Article 11 of the Law on Administrative Proceedings of the People's Republic of China stipulates that:

"Any citizen, legal person or organization contesting any of the following administrative acts may have his/its complaints heard by a people's court:

(1) Administrative penalties such as detention, fine, revocation of permit and licence, production stoppage, closure, confiscation, etc.;

(2) Administrative restriction of freedom of movement of a person, enforced closure, detention and freezing of assets;

(3) Administrative interference with legitimate entrepreneurial rights;

(4) Refusal by an administrative body to issue a permit or licence legally applied for or failure to reply to such an application;

(5) Refusal by an administrative body to discharge its legal obligation to offer personal or property protection applied for or failure to reply to such an application;

(6) Failure by an administrative body to pay a pension according to law;

(7) Demand by an administrative body for fulfilment of obligations contrary to law;

(8) Administrative violation of personal or property rights.

"In addition, a people's court may also hear other administrative proceedings instituted according to an appropriate law or regulation."

63. Article 67 of the Law of Administrative Proceedings stipulates:

"Any citizen, legal person or other organization whose legal rights are derogated by the conduct of an administrative body or an official of that body may claim compensation."

64. Article 68 of the Law of Administrative Proceedings stipulates:

"An administrative body whose conduct or whose officials' conduct violates the legal rights of a citizen, legal person or other organization, thereby causing damage, has the obligation to pay compensation. After such compensation has been paid, the administrative body in question shall ask the official knowingly or inadvertently responsible for the misconduct to reimburse that compensation in part or in whole."

65. In September 1988, the third session of the Seventh National People's Congress ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, signed by China's representative, Li Luye, on 2 September 1986.

Article 7

66. China encourages solidarity and mutual assistance among its ethnic peoples for the sake of national cohesion and progress. In April 1988, the State Council held a "National Ethnic Unity and Progress" rally in Beijing to

honour some 1,166 exemplary collectives and individuals belonging to 56 different ethnic groups. The rally has had a positive effect in promoting respect and friendship between peoples.

67. In 1989, the Commission on Nationality Affairs and the People's Daily co-sponsored a series of 170 illustrated news reports on minority areas, describing their traditions, customs, achievements and efforts at mutual assistance. The reports had a notable impact among readers.

68. The People's Central Broadcasting Corporation offers a programme called "The Great Family". Its purpose is to propagate solidarity, harmony, equality, mutual assistance and common prosperity among peoples through the reporting of topical ideas and personalities. In education, China also gives high priority to the promotion of national cohesion. The politics of nationalities forms part of the curricula of universities and secondary and primary schools.

69. On 22 November 1989, China's National Commission on Education published a provisional Code of Conduct for students enrolled in institutions of higher learning. Article 2 of the Code specifies that students of different ethnic background, enrolled in institutions of higher learning "shall take care to maintain relations based on equality, solidarity and mutual assistance. They shall respect the customs and religious faith of fellow students. They shall oppose behaviour detrimental to ethnic harmony".

70. On the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in December 1988, representatives from all walks of life met in Beijing to celebrate the event. They called upon the people of China and the peoples of the world to make greater efforts and contributions to put into practice the principles of the Declaration. The People's Daily took the opportunity to publish a commemorative article by Professor Fei Xiaotung, Deputy Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

71. In December 1989, China's Society of Jurists held an international symposium on the protection and promotion of children's rights under the sponsorship of UNICEF and other organizations within and outside China. At the symposium, Chinese scholars spoke on the protection of minority women and children. The symposium called upon Governments, community groups and the general public in the world to care about children's rights and to give priority to implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

72. It should be pointed out that, in recent years, several riots have broken out in the city of Lhasa in China's Autonomous Region of Tibet. The root cause of these riots was not nationalism or religious faith. Neither did they involve what has been called a "question of human rights". The riots were perpetrated by a small group of separatists with the aim of splitting China. Such acts of violence not only seriously disrupted the normal lives, education and work of the people of different nationalities in that area, including Tibetans, but also imperilled their lives, property and security. Most Tibetans as well as Chinese of other nationalities are strongly opposed to this kind of chaos instigated by a small handful of people. Having failed to dissuade and educate, the Chinese Government was forced to take the necessary measures to maintain law and order and to safeguard lives and property. Such measures included imposing martial law in the city of Lhasa. These measures were taken in accordance with the law of China and the common will of the Chinese people.

73. All in all, in 1988 and 1989, China has made new efforts to implement articles 2 to 7 of the Convention and has achieved a number of positive results. Still, China is a developing country with many nationalities and a huge population. There is much work to be done before it can hope to achieve ethnic cohesion, mutual assistance and development shared by all. Nevertheless, abiding by the principles and spirit of the Convention, China will conscientiously try to fulfil all the obligations laid down in the Convention and to make its own contribution to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination.